

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for operating a hearing device in which one of several possible hearing programs is automatically selectable by the hearing device selected at a given time in order to adjust to a momentary acoustic surround situation, which is automatically recognizable by the hearing device, said adjustment being made in that parameters of a transfer function provided between a microphone and a ~~hearer~~ receiver are changed, where ~~whereas~~ the parameters to be changed according to the hearing program switching are adjusted from a momentary value to a new desired value in a smooth manner in response to a filter unit, the filter unit having a timed response to a bi-level switching state value, said timed response controlling said changes, wherein the hearing program can be changed by manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the manually selected hearing program takes immediate full effect upon selection.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is extended over a given time range.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value corresponds to a step response of a low-pass filter.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value corresponds to a step response of a low-pass filter.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is generated using a ramp generator.

6. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is generated using a ramp generator.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) The method according to one of the claims 1 to 6 ~~18~~,
whereas one or several of the following parameters are used:

- maximum attenuation;
- width of registration;
- amplification;
- compression;
- scaling;
- operating point of a noise suppression unit;
- time constant of the compression;
- compression knee point;
- limiter;
- operating point of the suppression unit for the signal feedback;
- operating point of a recognition unit of the acoustic surrounding.

20. (currently amended) A hearing device operating according to claim 1,
wherein ~~whereas~~ at least one smooth transition filter unit having a timed response to said
a bi-level switching state value is provided which filter unit generates time-based
transitions of parameters which are affected by hearing program switching in response to
the bi-level switching state value, in that values of the parameters to be changed by a
hearing program switching are passed through the filter unit in order to obtain a smooth
transition from a momentary to a desired parameter value.

21. (previously presented) The hearing device according to claim 20, whereas
the filter unit features low-pass characteristics.

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22. (previously presented) The hearing device according to claim 20, whereas the filter unit comprises a ramp generator.

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)